



Healthy Kids, Healthy Michigan

Advocates for Healthy Weight in Children

April 16, 2015

The Honorable Amanda Price
Chair, House Education Committee
State Capitol
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: Oppose SB 139 (as passed the Senate)

Dear Chair Price:

We urge you to oppose SB 139 (as passed the Senate). This bill creates the broadest exemption from school nutrition standards of any state.

We are facing an obesity epidemic across this country and especially here in Michigan – as is clear from Governor Snyder’s Dashboard. The harsh reality is that for the first time in history, we have a whole generation of young people that will have a shorter life expectancy than their parents (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

As currently written the bill allows for fundraisers **during school hours every school day**. No other state in the country comes close to elimination of the standard. As passed the Senate, the Michigan Department of Education is required to allow “not less than 3 fund-raising activities per week.”

The *Smart Snacks in Schools* nutrition guidelines provide limited regulation over food served or sold during the school day at a public school. Despite the rhetoric on the effect of these guidelines, the real impact is incredibly modest, as you will note from the most common scenarios:

- **Scenario 1: Sporting event, after school, sells popcorn, pizza, chips, candy and soft drinks.** *Smart Snacks in Schools* nutrition guidelines do not apply for events after school hours.
- **Scenario 2: Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) sells baked goods (packaged whole pies, whole cakes, etc.) during school hours.** *Smart Snacks in Schools* nutrition guidelines do not apply (exemption for items not intended for immediate consumption).
- **Scenario 3: Girl Scout Troop selling Girl Scout Cookies (or taking orders for cookies) during school hours.** *Smart Snacks in Schools* nutrition guidelines do not apply (exemption for items not intended for immediate consumption).



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- **Scenario 4: Debate club sells Krispy Kreme doughnuts during school hours.**
Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition guidelines do apply.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 139, as your committee deliberates.

Sincerely,

Michael Maisner
Chair
Healthy Kids, Healthy Michigan

cc: House Education Committee Members
Peter Ruddell, RWC Advocacy

About HKHM

Healthy Kids, Healthy Michigan is a coalition dedicated to reducing childhood obesity in Michigan through strategic policy initiatives while working with state government leaders. HKHM is comprised of executive-level decision makers from nearly 200 organizations statewide dedicated to addressing childhood obesity and improving the health of Michigan's youngest residents. These organizations represent government, public and private sectors, school districts, health care and non-profit organizations.